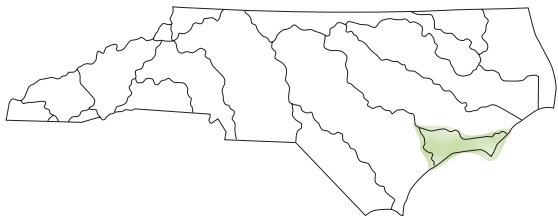


# WHITE OAK RIVER BASIN

Tucked between the eastern portions of the Neuse and Cape Fear river basins, the White Oak River Basin abounds with coastal and freshwater wetlands. The basin includes four separate river systems, or subbasins, that feed into highly productive



estuaries of Back, Core and Bogue sounds. Core Sound produces the most valuable seafood catch in the basin, followed by Bogue Sound and the Newport River.

The New River subbasin (not to be confused with the New River Basin in the northwestern part of the state) is the largest and most populated of the White Oak River Basin. It contains the city of Jacksonville and the U.S. Marine Corps base at Camp Lejeune. But the basin draws its name from the White Oak River, a remote, scenic, 48-mile river that spills into Bogue Sound past the picturesque town of Swansboro. Still farther east is the basin's Newport River, which begins near Havelock and flows into the eastern end of Bogue Sound. The shortest and easternmost river in the basin is the North River, which empties into Back Sound near Harkers Island.

Forest and wetlands—both privately and publicly owned—cover almost half the basin. More than 80,000 acres of the Croatan National Forest lie within the White Oak River Basin. It hosts the largest population of carnivorous plants of any national forest and is the second largest habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. The Croatan is the only coastal forest in the National Forest System. Its saltwater paddle trail circles more than 100 miles of tidal marshes and flats and unique coastal forests. The forest's wetland communities are home to rare and unusual insect-eating plants like the Venus flytrap, pitcher plants, bladderworts, butterworts and sundews. A stunning array of lilies, orchids and other wildflowers grace the forest edges.



## profile:

Total miles of streams and rivers: 446

Total acres of estuary: 130,009

Total miles of coastline: 91

Municipalities within basin: 16

Counties within basin: 4

Size: 1,264 square miles

Population: 150,501 (2000 U.S. Census)

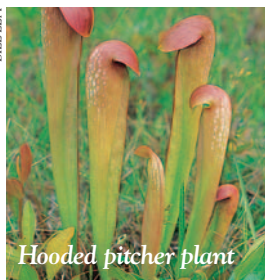
*Ward Creek flows through a marsh near Otway in Carteret County.*

BILL LEA



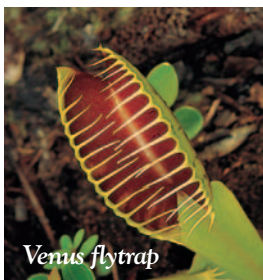
Sundew (on right) and butterwort in moss

BILL LEA



Hooded pitcher plant

BILL LEA



Venus flytrap

GEORGE HUMPHRIES

